

Youth Resource Connections

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Headlines

The Department of Labor (DOL) Announces Funds for Women in Non-Traditional Occupation Projects. The Women in Apprenticeship and Nontraditional Occupations program at DOL will fund grants to help women enter apprenticeship and nontraditional occupations. The purpose of the grants is to provide technical assistance to labor unions and employers to help them recruit, train, employ, and retain workers. Applicants must demonstrate established employer and labor union linkages. Grants ranging from \$50,000 to \$100,000 will be awarded to approximately 10 grantees. For more information visit: <http://www.dol.gov>.

Deadline: August 11.

Department of Education Invites Applications for Fiscal Year 2003 Mentoring Projects.

The Department of Education seeks applications for "Mentoring for Transition-Age Youth and Young Adults with Disabilities" projects. These grants will provide financial assistance to projects that improve rehabilitation services for individuals with disabilities. Mentoring programs developed under this program must incorporate effective, research-based mentoring methods. Applications requirements may be found at:

<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/14mar20010800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2003/pdf/03-19876.pdf>. **Deadline: September 4.**

The Department of Labor's, Office of Youth Services sponsors National Youth Skills Challenge.

The Office of Youth Services hosted the first annual Youth Career Skills Challenge, July 31st – August 2nd, on the campus of Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. One hundred and thirty six youth from 26 Youth Opportunity Grant sites attended the event. Youth participated in competitive events such as community service learning, occupational skill training, photography, and poetry and music submissions. Youth also participated in 11 interactive competitive events, as well as a Washington, D.C. monuments scavenger hunt. There were numerous winners, only the first-place winners are listed here:

Public Speaking: Arnaldo Rivas, Milwaukee YO!

College Essay: Amber Bratton, Arkansas YO!

Language Arts (team): Ebony Condry, Tampa YO!; Joel Ulloa, Los Angeles YO!; Jonathon Blackmon, Milwaukee YO!; Eric Garrett, San Francisco YO!

Math & Budgeting: Malishia Wright, Houston YO!

Current Events (team): Chanie Carlton, Baltimore YO!; Ronald Beasley, Baltimore YO!; Jason Williams, Baltimore YO!; Joyce Tibbitts, Oglala Lakota Nation

Career Vocabulary: Rashid Beatty, Baltimore YO!

Computer-Based Career Planning: The-Anh Nguyen, Seattle YO!

Employment Survival: Thanh Nguyen, Houston YO!

Employment Interview: The-Anh Nguyen, Seattle YO!

College Interview: Thanh Nguyen, Houston YO!

Business Plans (team): Charlie Givens, Albany YO!; Lisa Williams, Albany YO!

Visual Art: Adrian-Jaendel Guadalupe, Buffalo YO!
Photography: Celiza Cabral, Brockton YO!
Community Service Learning: Kansas City YO!
Occupational Skills Training: Lumber River YO!
Music: Michaelyn Oby, Memphis YO!
Poetry: Charlie Givens, Albany YO!
Scavenger Hunt: Hartford YO!; Seattle YO!; Pima YO!

The participants had the opportunity to experience true campus life, living in the dorms, attending workshops and events in Catholic's classrooms and of course, eating cafeteria food. The YO! participants can look forward to Future Skills Challenge Events. For additional information contact Ann Stom at 202-693-3377.

Program Spotlight

San Antonio YO! Opens Fourth Youth Center. Leaders of San Antonio College and the City's Community Department signed an agreement with the YO! to open its fourth center. This center will partner with the SAC Women's Center offering job readiness training and paid internships to the YO! participants. Through the partnership with the women's center more single mothers and students will receive services. For further information contact Tim Dusek, Project Director at 210-272-3260.

YO! Seattle Helps Youth Triumph Over Challenges. Marvin, a YO participant enrolled in the program after arriving from Honduras. He has taken advantage of the opportunities provided at the YO program. Marvin overcame multiple barriers, including homelessness, and academic deficiencies with the assistance of YO! staff. The YO! staff helped him meet his graduation requirements. In addition, staff assisted him in pursuing enrollment in Urban Youth Corps, a outdoor conservation program. For additional information contact Dan Frey, Project Director at 206-448-0474.

Cleveland YO! Partners with Habitat for Humanity. Cleveland YO! Youth participated in a Habitat for Humanity Project in LaGrange, Georgia. Seventeen youth participants from the Cleveland program helped rehabilitate homes for residents in the LaGrange community. This project is a part of the community service learning programs offered through the YO! Program. For additional information contact Reuben Shepard at 216-249-2020.

Friends of the Island Academy (FOIA) in New York provides educational, vocational, leadership and life skills training for ex-offenders. The program offers a range of services such as GED training, basic literacy, word processing, database management and how to use the Internet. Former youth offenders, hired as staff members, conduct workshops to encourage soon-to-be-released prisoners to participate in FOIA programs. FOIA also offers job readiness training and helps participants find and apply for work. For additional information contact Beth Navon at 212-760-0755.

Texas Program Helps Young Offenders. Project RIO-Y (Re-Integration of Offenders-Youth) is administered by the Texas Workforce Commission in collaboration with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, the Windham School District and the Texas Youth Commission. The project provides a link between education, training and employment during incarceration with employment, training and education after release. Project RIO develops an individualized treatment plan to identify a career path for participating prisoners and to guide placement decisions. For additional information contact staff at the Texas Commission at 512-463-2654.

Funding Opportunities

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announces Grants to Help Low-Income Individuals. HHS, Administration for Children and Families will fund projects to test and evaluate ways of creating employment and business opportunities for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Assistance recipients and other low-income individuals. The project will offer opportunities through self-employment, new business ventures and provide for expansion of existing businesses. Nonprofit organizations, including faith-based and charitable organizations are eligible to apply. Approximately \$4.5 million is available to fund 9 awards. For further information contact Aleatha Slade at 1-800-281-9519. **Deadline: August 11.**

Employment Subsidy Program for Refugees with Assimilation Difficulties. The Department of Health and Human Services/Administration for Children and Families announces funds for employment subsidy projects for refugees who have experienced long-term difficulties with assimilation. These grants are intended for localities with concentrations of refugees who have experienced difficulty integrating economically and socially into local communities. Nonprofit and community and faith-based organizations are eligible to apply. Approximately \$5 million is available to fund 10-20 grants ranging from \$200,000 to \$800,000. For further information contact Jane Sommerville at 202-401-4561 or Daphne Weeden at 202-401-4577 or visit: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov>.

The Corporation of National and Community Service announces the availability of funds for AmeriCorps/VISTA program grants. The Corporation will award up to 15 grants to AmeriCorps/VISTA Programs. The purpose of these program grants is to create and expand opportunities for low income individuals in one of the following area: (1) children and youth; (2) welfare to work; (3) financial asset development; (4) seniors in poverty; and (5) homeland security. Private non-profit or public organizations are eligible to apply. For supplementary informational and application guidelines, visit, <http://vista@americorps.org>. **Deadline: August 15.**

The National Endowment of the Arts offers Arts Funds. The National Endowment of the Arts has released guidelines for funding opportunities available in the following categories: artistic creativity and preservation grants. Artistic creativity and preservation grants are designed to encourage and support artistic creativity and preserve America's diverse cultural heritage. For more information visit: <http://www.nea.gov>. **Deadline: August 15.**

Publications

The National Youth Court Center offer numerous publications related to youth court program offer numerous publications related to youth court program. To obtain a listing of available publications, visit: <http://www.youthcourt.net/publications/overview.htm>

Calendar of Events

August 13-15. San Antonio, TX. Texas Network of Youth Services. Contact: 512-328-6860 or visit: <http://www.tnoys.org>.

August 16-19. New Orleans, LA. National Association of Counsel for Children. Contact: 888-828-6222.

September 2-5. Petersburg Beach, FL. Interstate Benefits National Training Conference. Contact: Mary Montgomery 202-693-3217.

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Technical Assistance Update for August 8, 2003

September 17-19. Washington, DC. PePNet 03 Institute and Awards Ceremony. Contact: 202-659-1064.

September 18-19. Denver, CO. The Spot: Creating Adolescent-Focused Youth Centers. Contact: 303-507-3230.

September 22-24. Nashville, TN. National Youth Court Center. Contact: 859-244-8193 or visit: <http://www.youthcourt.net>.

September 24-27. San Antonio, TX. Texas State Foster Parents. Visit: <http://www.tsfpi.org>.